



SME Minerals Education Sustainability Committee

Report on progress

NMA Meeting, Las Vegas

September 29, 2004

Mineral Education Sustainability Task Force

Problem Statement - Vision - Goals

Problem Statement:

The availability of professionals for Mining Industry and Government is dependent upon the sustainability of mineral education programs.

Vision:

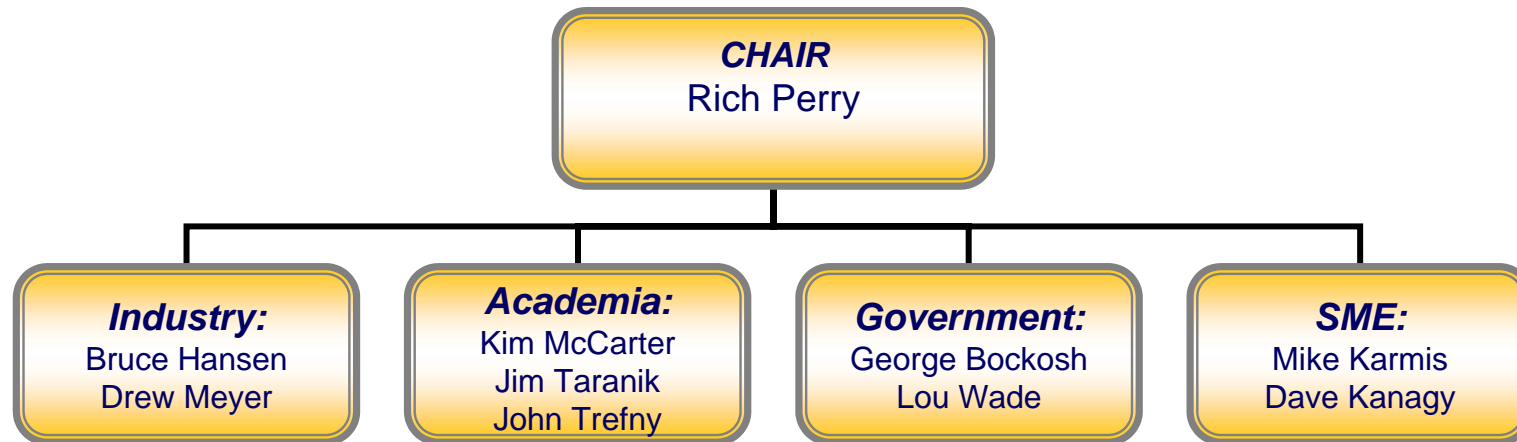
Promote sustainability of minerals education in North America through improved collaboration between industry, academia, and government

Goals:

- Provide a forum for college administrators and educators to discuss long-term sustainability.
- Attempt to develop a forecast of the minerals engineering and economic geology graduates.
- Explore what the Mining Industry can do to assist the minerals education programs with recruiting and retention.

Mineral Education Sustainability Task Force

A Steering Committee was formed to drive the effort



Action teams were launched on the following areas:

Recruiting - Leader Marc Lavier

Supply & Demand of Talent - Leader Leigh Freeman

Sustainability of Mining Programs - Leader Bruce Hansen

Mineral Education Sustainability Task Force High Level Approach



Educational Institutions with some form of Mining/Minerals Education remaining:

Colorado School of Mines

University of Utah

Montana Tech

Virginia Tech

University of Nevada, Reno

University of Missouri, Rolla

New Mexico Tech

University of Arizona

University of Kentucky

Southern Illinois University

University of Alaska, Fairbanks

University of West Virginia

South Dakota School of Mines

Penn State University

“The Elevator Speech”

We have a critical sustainability issue with minerals engineering education in the United States. We aren't graduating enough mining and minerals engineers, our University faculty are retiring with no replacements, and we are losing mining programs at the State Universities due to shrinking State funding.

A group of industry, government and academics was formed at the last annual SME meeting to propose a path forward on these issues. This group concluded that we need a minimum of 300 new Mining Engineering graduates each year, at least 10 PhD's each year to replace retiring faculty, and at least 10 sustainable mining programs in the US to maintain critical mass.

Given the constraints on State University budgets and the high cost of educating mining professionals, it is estimated that up to \$20M per year will be needed to supplement State support for a majority of University programs to remain sustainable. These monies would go toward recruiting students, scholarships, and faculty salaries where there is no State support.

*Not since the 1970's have we seen such a
forecasted shortfall in mining professionals
due to an exodus of talent from
retirements in the next 5-10 years.*